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Tongsun Park and the Ko

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The American Central Intelligence Agency had reason to know as far back as the early 1960s that Tongsun Park, a central figure in investigations of South Korean influence-buying on Capitol Hill, had ties with the Korean CIA.

An American CIA station chief in Seoul who met him frequently said he regarded Park as an important "agent of influence."

In addition to Park's official Korean role, he had at least circumstantial ties with the American CIA through his prominent membership in two student groups.

Justice Department and congressional investigators, as part of their inquiries into the Korean lobbying effort, have been trying to determine what the American CIA knew about the campaign and what it told law enforcement authorities about it.

A Washington Post investigation, based on private

and official papers and documentation of the Korean government and

This contrasts with the consistent claim that Park has no connection. Park himself said that his activities included entertaining "contributions" to members as a private businessman. Taking them chronologically show that:

- Tongsun Park, in Korean government service in Seoul that received a promotion at the time a major CIA

- Tongsun Park, in various positions and participated

See PAI

States by the founder and first director of the Korean CIA. The visit was coordinated by the American CIA.

- Tongsun Park, in 1964, became an incorporator, director and president of an international anti-Communist youth organization based in Washington, which had circumstantial links to the American CIA.

- Tongsun Park, from at least 1969 to 1973, was in contact with the American CIA station chief in Seoul, with whom he maintained a highly visible party-going social friendship that was regarded as enhancing Park's prestige with his own government. This relationship, by some accounts, survived a direct order by the U.S. Ambassador, Philip C. Habib, to his staff to terminate all contact with Park.

- Tongsun Park, in 1969, was receiving cabled instructions from a senior official on President Park Chung Hee's staff—instructions which, at least once, were coordinated with the head of the KCIA, Lee Hu Rak.

It is not clear what the formal or legal responsibilities are for the intelligence agencies to share such information with other segments of government, executive and legislative. Many highly placed persons in both branches who accepted Park's lavish hospitality and/or campaign contributions, have told federal investigators that no one ever alerted them to the fact that Park was anything other than a gregarious, ambitious rice merchant with Perle Mesta aspirations.

Some accepted contributions that would have been legal coming from a resident alien businessman but would be illegal coming from the agent of a foreign government.

In an interview with The Washington Post last week, the new director of the American CIA, Adm. Stansfield Turner, declined either to confirm or to deny that "anybody in the CIA knew Park to be an agent of influence." The only comment he would make, he said, was that "I have been assured that all of the relevant information the CIA had on Park or KCIA activities was passed to appropriate authorities in the executive branch of our government."

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CIA 6.01 Turner, Adm.
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CIA 1.04 Richardson, John
STAT
CIA 7.02 Justice Dept

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